

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-8 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider her rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Kosmatka (U.S. Patent 6,364,789). Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Shieh (U.S. Patent 6,299,549). Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Chen et al. (U.S. Patent 6,749,524). Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Huang (U.S. Published Application 2005/0181890). Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Chen et al. (U.S. Published Application 2005/0049074). Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Chen et al. (U.S. Patent 6,918,841). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

By way of the present Amendment, Applicant has modified the claims, especially claim 1, to better define the invention. The term "casing" has been changed to "body" throughout the claims. Likewise, the term "extension part" has been changed to "extension lug." More importantly, Applicant has added limitations to claim 1 including the fact that the extension lug is protruded to be exposed on an outer circumference of the body and that the clearance has at least one clearance section adjacent to the extension lug. Applicant submits that the above references do not show these features.

In particular, the Kosmatka reference has extensions 56 and 60 which are internal to the body and do not protrude on the outer circumference. Also, there is no clearance section adjacent an extension lug.

Shieh has extensions 12 which also do not protrude on an outer circumference of the body. Similarly, Chen '524 includes extensions which are internal also.

The Huang reference shows a striking plate with extensions which rest on a shoulder within the body. Thus, there are no extension lugs protruding on an outer circumference of the body.

Chen et al. '074 has a striking plate 20 having grooves rather than lugs with the striking plate being received in a recess in the bottom of the body. Accordingly, this reference also does not show the presence of lugs at all.

Chen '841 also shows extensions which are internal to the body in a similar fashion to other references indicated above. For these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by any of these references.

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and as such are also considered to be allowable. In addition, each of these claims recite other features that make them additionally allowable, such as the positioning of the brazing material and the particular direction of the extension lug. Accordingly, these claims are considered to be additionally allowable.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Lee (U.S. Patent 6,860,823) in view of Hocknell et al. (U.S. Patent 6,669,577). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner points out that the Lee reference has extensions 75, 77 and that the striking plate has extensions 43. However, none of these extensions are lugs which protrude on an outer circumference of the body. In view of this, Applicant submits that claims 1-8 are not obvious over this combination of references either.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied upon by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, please contact Robert F. Gnuse, Reg. No. 27,295 at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP.

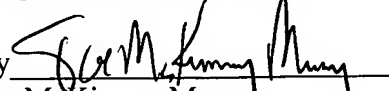
Application No. 10/849,513
Amendment dated May 26, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 28, 2006

Docket No.: 3624-0235PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 26, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Joe McKinney Muncy

Registration No.: 32,334

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant